

PROPOSAL TO THE OFFICE OF NAVAL RESEARCH

in Response to ONR BAA 98-019

Long Range Scientific and Technology Research Projects

Submitted by

LAMONT-DOHERTY EARTH OBSERVATORY

Make Grant Payable to:

The Trustees of Columbia University in the City of New York
Office of Projects & Grants
1210 Amsterdam Avenue - MC 2205
New York, New York 10027

**Enhancement of the Release of Scientific Data
in the Framework of Scientific Publishing**

Amount Requested: \$56,516

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LDEC Proposal No. 9503

Progress report

ONR Grant No. N00014-99-1-0461

Enhancement of release of scientific data in the framework of scientific publishing

Peter Schlosser

1. Background

This proposal requested support for exploring a more rapid data release in the framework of the Journal of Geophysical Research (Oceans) Editorship. The goal is to develop a policy that would require data release at the same time as publication of the first scientific description of the research project that produced the data. Design and implementation of the policy should emphasize incentives and advantages of early data release in terms of possibilities of cooperation and the opportunity for everybody in the community to assemble large integrated data sets to derive synthesized science products.

2. Progress

Originally proposed work:

I proposed to use the Editorship of AGU's Journal of Geophysical Research (Oceans) to explore mechanisms for accelerated data release as part of the scientific publishing process. The work initially includes

1. Exploring possibilities of a data release policy within the Editorship of JGR Oceans. This policy would require release of the data pertinent to the manuscripts published in JGR Oceans.
2. Working with AGU to design innovative data release platforms (www based; etc.) in addition to existing data release channels such as national or international data centers to make it easier for scientists to release their data in a rewarding way.
3. Working with editors of other scientific journals to receive feedback on a possible data release policy
4. Communicating the concepts arrived at in steps 1 through 3 to scientists and incorporate their feedback into the data release policy development.

Accomplished work:

The work during the first year of the project was devoted to helping in the formation of a new editorial board for JGR Oceans. The challenge was to find editors who are committed to high standards of scientific publishing and who are interested in the evolution of the journal towards electronic publishing. Electronic publishing seems to be a key feature for added-on data releases.

I also had discussions with AGU about possible platforms for publishing of data (e.g., www), as well as editors from other oceanographic journals about their views of the problem.

Finally, I familiarized myself with the procedures of data releases in other fields, such as the Genome Project.

Outlook for year 2:

In year two, I plan to discuss several models of data publishing in the context of the scientific publishing with the editorial board of JGR Oceans. I will continue to discuss platforms for data publishing with AGU and I will also continue my discussions with editors of other journals.

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